

CIA/RR MP-92

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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Research and Reports

15 May 1952

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Comments on Report of Possible Security Violation Involving
N.V. Philips Gloeilampenfabriken

1. Soviet Capabilities in the Field of Microwave Radar Magnetrons.

It is generally agreed that the Soviet Union has operational microwave fire control radar equipment of native Soviet manufacture, and possibly has airborne radar equipment. During the latter years of World War II, and in the early postwar period, large quantities of US magnetrons, including Type 725, were made available to the USSR, both through Lend-Lease and through the surplus market. At the present time, it is believed that the USSR is manufacturing radar magnetrons on a production scale, and it is not likely that the USSR depends upon imports from the West of these essential tubes.

2. Production Capabilities and Export Policy of N.V. Philips Co.

a. The N.V. Philips Company in the Netherlands has developed an advance type of microwave fire control radar in which NATO countries have indicated strong interest. It is understood that production of this equipment has been, or will be, initiated, presumably for military services of NATO countries. N.V. Philips has imported US-produced microwave magnetrons, types 4J50 or 4J52, presumably for the above end use. Export license approval was granted for such shipments; it is believed that military DO rating was provided to cover export of these two types of magnetrons.

b. The N.V. Philips organization (Netherlands), with its foreign Western European subsidiaries, has furnished electronic and electrical material in significant quantities to Soviet Bloc industries, either directly or indirectly. It is known that such supplies have included specialized production materials for the manufacture of tubes and lamps, specialized factory machinery for the manufacture of lamps and/or tubes, diamond dies, and standard receiving tubes and radio components used in the manufacture of civilian radio receivers. To our knowledge, there is no evidence, either positive or negative, concerning the export of radar or of microwave tubes and components from any Philips enterprise to the Soviet Bloc.

DOCUMENT NO. 19
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
☒ DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS, S, C

AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: JUN 1980

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c. The Ampere Electronic Corporation is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Philips organization. As is the case with all Philips subsidiaries, it must be assumed that the company policies are directed by the parent firm and that all information of significance available to the subsidiaries is available to the parent organization.

d. It appears certain that the N.V. Philips policies will permit extensive shipments to Soviet Bloc customers, including the furnishing of technical assistance, when such activities are in the commercial interests of the company. It is also certain that the N.V. Philips definition of strategic categories is much more lenient than views held in the US. There is no evidence, however, that Philips has engaged in providing the Soviet Bloc with information or material which has a military security classification, or with specific military electronics devices.

3. Export Control Aspects of the Problem.

a. Although all the items listed in paragraph 3 (b), above, are subject to some form of US export control, it should be noted that the Netherlands government has not embargoed the export of diamond dies and that European countries in general do not restrict the export of ordinary radio tubes and component parts to the Bloc. With regard to microwave radar magnetrons, specifically, export from the Netherlands (as well as the US, and other COCOM members) is prohibited, such type electronic equipment being found on International List I (COCOM) as Item No. 1558 — "Valves (tubes), electronic, of the following kinds (and specialized parts therefor): (b) Those of a kind used at frequencies over 250 megacycles per second."

b. Under provisions of the Battle Act, military, economic and financial assistance could be denied to the Netherlands if that country were found to be exporting List I items to the Soviet Bloc. As indicated above, no evidence is available to this Agency to indicate that microwave radar magnetrons have been exported by the Netherlands to the Soviet Bloc.

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